JUNI TAISEN: ZODIAC WAR

- The Zodiac War is held every twelve years.
- Twelve fierce warriors take on the names of the Zodiac.
- The twelve warriors each possess unique superpowers.
- The sole victor will be granted any single wish.

The Fighter of the Snake

Tatsumi Brother, the Younger

Kills for Money

The Fighter of the Dragon

Tatsumi Brother, the Elder

Kills for Money

The Fighter of the Rabbit

Usagi

Kills with Destruction. Necromancist

The Fighter of the Tiger

Tora

Kills with Drunken Power

The Fighter of the Ox

Ushii

Just Kills

The Fighter of the Rat

Nezumi

Kills Inexorably

The Fighter of the Boar

Inōnoshishi

Tsuchiya Yōko

- *Kills in Abundance*
- *Making It Rain*

The Fighter of the Dog

Dotsuku

Mishio Yūkai

- *Kills in Blue*
- *Mad Dog's Rage*

The Fighter of the Chicken

Niwatori

Kyaku Ayaka

- *Kills by Pecks*
- *Eye of the Cormorant*

The Fighter of the Monkey

Sharyū

Kills in Peace

The Fighter of the Sheep

Hitsujii

Kills with Deception

The Fighter of the Horse

Uuma

Kills in Silence

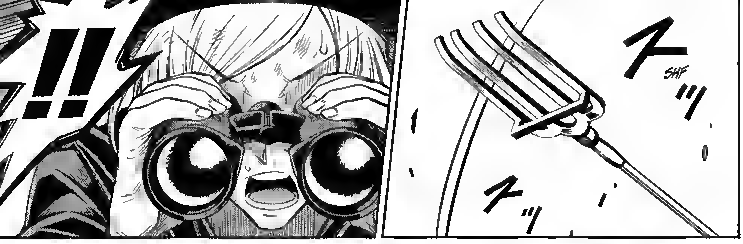
I KILL BY PECKS.
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN

I GIVE TO YOU MY SKY BURIAL.
TH-THE BIRDS...
...ARE FEASTING ON BOAR'S CORPSE...!

BOOM
THUNK
KRK
KRK
KRK

ドドド

I JUST ASSUMED THAT SHE'D LOST THAT POWER WHEN SHE DIED.
BUT I GUESS I WAS WRONG...
GOOD THING I DECIDED NOT TO TEST OUT MY NEW STRENGTH ON HER!
I WOULD'VE BEEN BLOWN TO BITS!
GRIN
EVEN THIS WAS COSTLY. THE BIRDS WERE TOO FEW BEFORE...
KAW
KAW
KAW
...AND NOW THEY'RE EVEN FEWER.
WORSE YET, THEY MUST BE FULL.
IF I RUN INTO SNAKE'S CORPSE NOW, I COULD BE IN TROUBLE...
WHICH MEANS ...


!!
ﾄｯ
SHF
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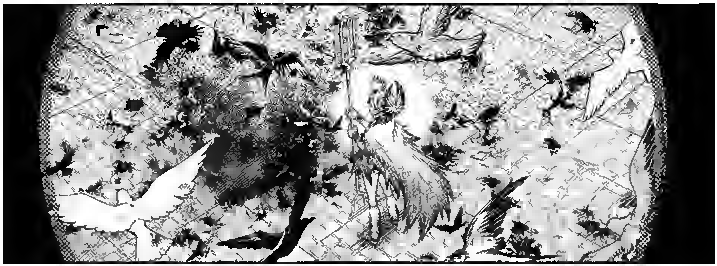
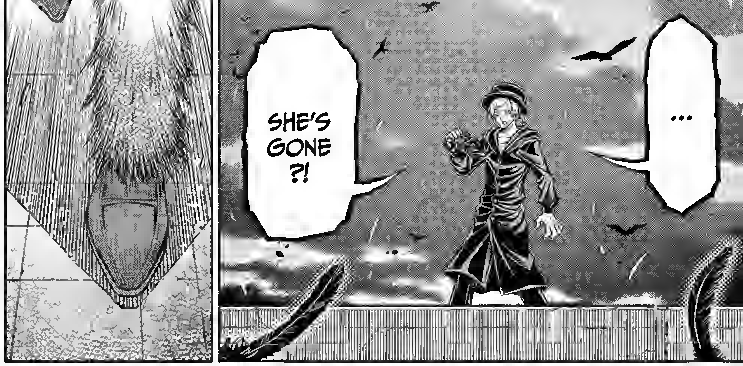
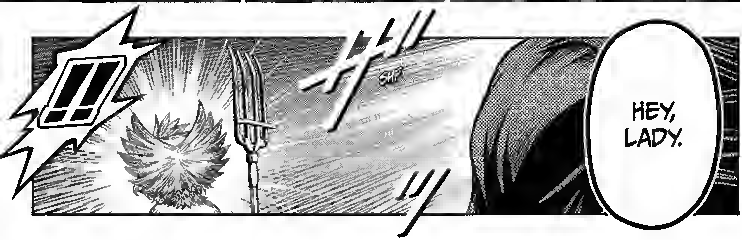



...
SHE'S GONE ?!

I DON'T MIND IF HE DOCUMENTS MY FIGHTS...
...BUT I'D RATHER KEEP MY DOWN-TIME TO MYSELF.
SO THEN...
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO AT A TIME LIKE THIS.

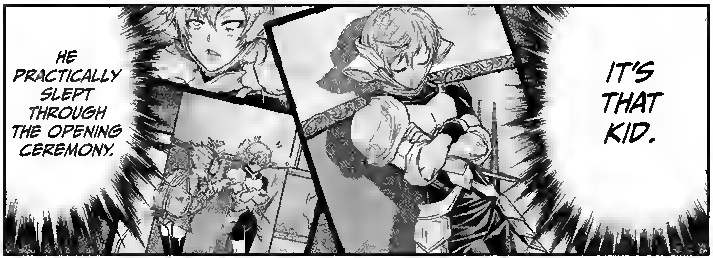
EAT, OF COURSE!
WHO KNOWS WHEN I'LL GET ANOTHER CHANCE!

AND WHO CAN FIGHT ON AN EMPTY STOMACH? NOT ME!
LET'S SEE. ONIGIRI, SAND-WICHES...
WOW! THEY EVEN HAVE ONSEN EGGS!
THEY'RE MY FAVORITE!

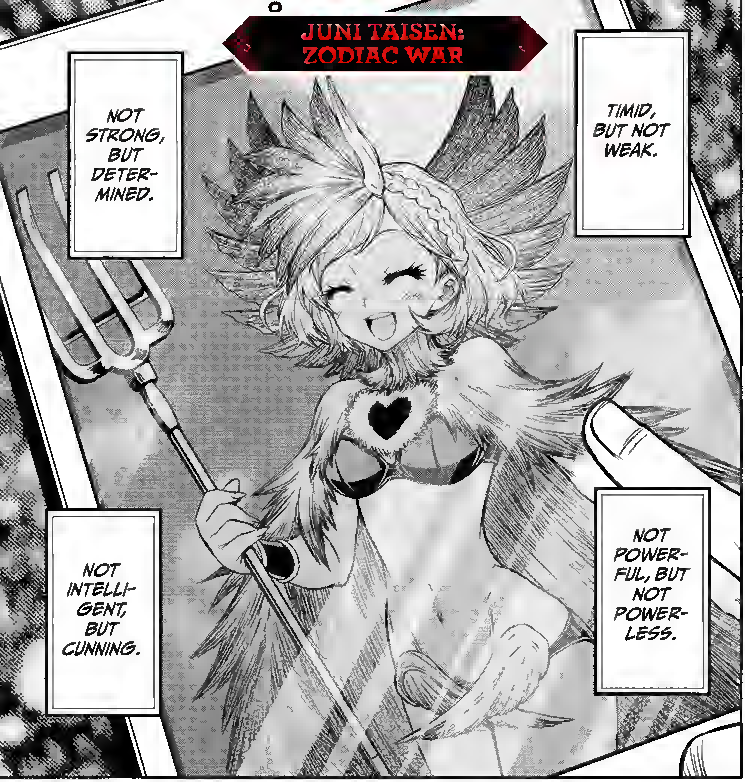

HEY, LADY.
SHIT

SPEW

!!
IT'S HIM...
...


HE PRACTICALLY SLEPT THROUGH THE OPENING CEREMONY.
IT'S THAT KID.

I DON'T MEAN TO FIGHT YOU.
AHH, GIVE IT A REST.
!!
SHIT
!!



CHAPTER FOUR | RAT, MONKEY, CHICKEN, BOAR

...I MIGHT AS WELL INTRODUCE MYSELF.
FLIP
WELL, SEEING HOW WE'VE NEVER MET BEFORE...
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA BELIEVE THAT!
BZMP
HE'S LYING.
BZMP
I KILL INEXORABLY.
I AM NEZUMI, THE FIGHTER OF THE RAT.
YAAWUN
...HE'S THE ONLY ONE I COULDN'T FIND OUT ANYTHING ABOUT.
EVEN WITH MY EYE OF THE CORMORANT...
RAT? THIS BOY IS THE RAT?
DUN
...
DUN

...
I KILL BY PECKS.
OH, ER, I'M NIWATORI, THE FIGHTER OF THE CHICKEN.
AND YOU ARE?
DOES HE MEAN AT THE BEGIN-NING?
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
...AND SHE ASKED IF ANYONE WOULD COOPERATE...
WHEN MONKEY WAS TALKING ABOUT SOME SCHEME FOR US ALL TO WIN...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...
YOU RAISED YOUR HAND BACK THERE, DIDN'T YOU?
BACK WHERE?
I'LL TAKE YOU TO WHERE MONKEY IS.
COME WITH ME.

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ゴゴ
ゴゴ
ゴゴ
ゴ
I'M SHARYŪ, THE FIGHTER OF THE MONKEY.
I KILL IN PEACE.

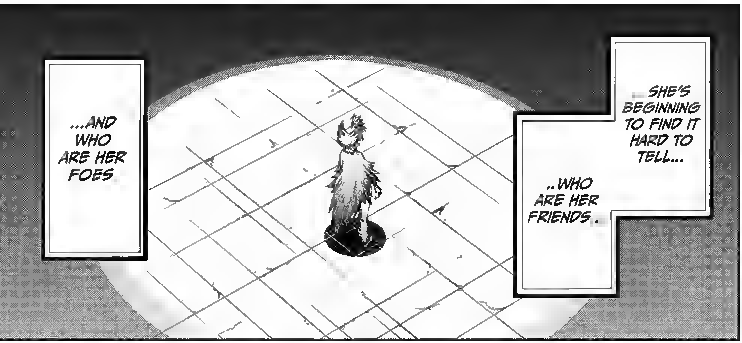
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.

SHE HAS NO MEMORIES OF HER YOUTH BEFORE THE AGE OF FIFTEEN, WHEN SHE KILLED HER MOTHER AND FATHER WITH HER OWN HANDS.
THROUGHOUT HER EARLY CHILDHOOD, SHE WAS THE VICTIM OF ABUSE SO ABHORRENT THAT WORDS FAIL TO DESCRIBE IT.
DON
WHO
WHO
WHO

FWU.
FWU.
FWAP
SHE HAS LIVED THE LIFE OF A WARRIOR EVER SINCE.
SHE WAS ADOPTED INTO THE NIWA FAMILY, A RENOWNED MERCENARY CLAN, WHO SOON DISCOVERED HER ABILITY TO CONTROL BIRDS.
WITHOUT A PAST, SHE HAS NO REAL PURPOSE...
..VOLI-TION...
...OR CONVIC-TIONS OF HER OWN.

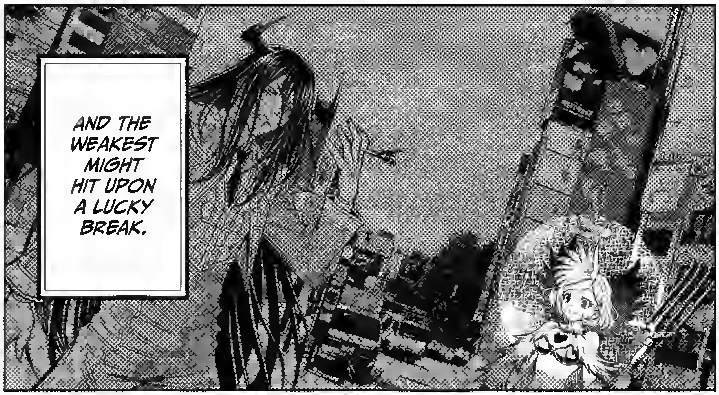
SHE IS TOLD TO FIGHT, AND SO SHE FIGHTS.
SHE IS TOLD TO KILL, AND SO SHE KILLS.

...AND SO MANY BETRAY-ALS...
...SO MUCH DECEP-TION.
AFTER YEARS OF SO MUCH KILLING...

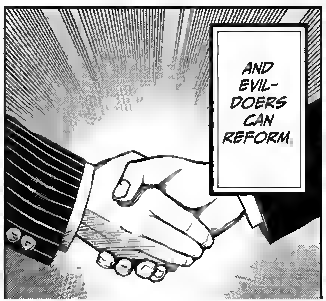

...AND WHO ARE HER FOES.
...SHE'S BEGINNING TO FIND IT HARD TO TELL...
...WHO ARE HER FRIENDS.

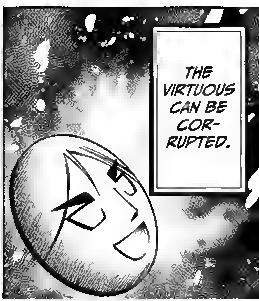
SUCH THINGS ARE SITUATIONAL.
AS MUTABLE AS THE WEATHER.
WHEN DEALING WITH OTHER PEOPLE, SHE CARES LITTLE ABOUT THEIR AFFINITIES, OR HOW MUCH STRONGER THEY MIGHT BE IN SKILL OR PERSONALITY.
BUT THAT DOESN'T CONCERN HER MUCH.

THE VERY BEST FIGHTER MIGHT HAVE AN OFF DAY.

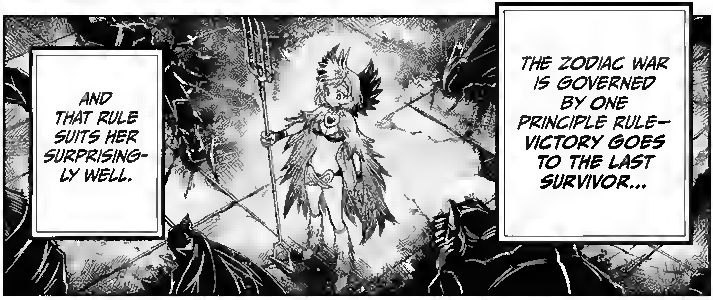

AND THE WEAKEST MIGHT HIT UPON A LUCKY BREAK.

SUCH VAGARIES NEVER CAPTURED HER ATTENTION.

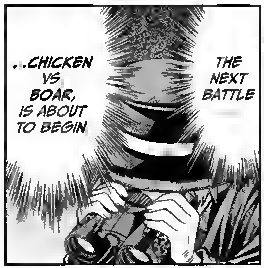

AND EVIL-DOERS CAN REFORM.

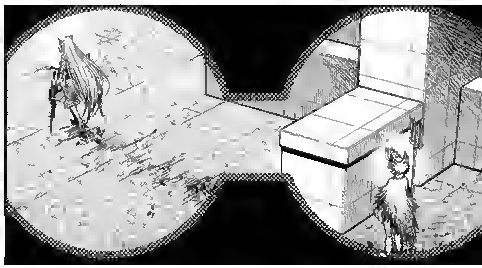

THE VIRTUOUS CAN BE COR-RUPTED.

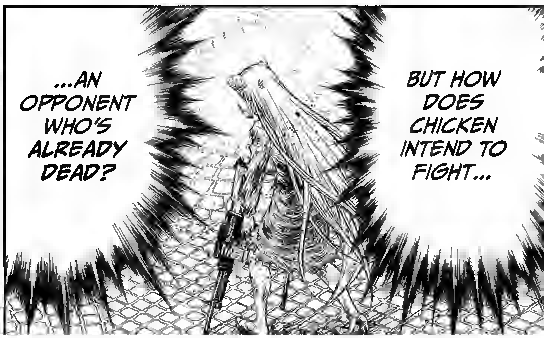
IT'S MYSELF I NEED TO BE THINKING OF.
AFTER ALL, OTHER PEOPLE...
...ARE JUST BACK-GROUND ELEMENTS.


THE ZODIAC WAR IS GOVERNED BY ONE PRINCIPLE RULE— VICTORY GOES TO THE LAST SURVIVOR...
AND THAT RULE SUITS HER SURPRISING-LY WELL.

HH
FUUU


..CHICKEN VS BOAR, IS ABOUT TO BEGIN
THE NEXT BATTLE




...AN OPPONENT WHO'S ALREADY DEAD?
BUT HOW DOES CHICKEN INTEND TO FIGHT...

THANKS TO DOTSUKU-SAN'S HELP, MY STRENGTH'S BEEN MAXED OUT.
THE EFFECT WILL EVENTUALLY WEAR OFF... SO I'D LIKE TO PUT AN END TO THIS CONTEST BEFORE IT DOES.
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO RUSH INTO A REAL FIGHT UNTIL I'VE HAD TIME TO GET USED TO THIS NEW POWER.
THAT WOULD BE A LITTLE TOO RECKLESS FOR ME.
INSTEAD ...
...I'LL CALL ON MY BIRDS.
SWISH
WISH
DUN
DUN
DUN
RUMP